



The LECC LINK

LINKING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE COMMUNITY
IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

ALICE H. MARTIN, U.S. ATTORNEY, Chair LECC

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A Message from the U.S. Attorney, Alice H. Martin...

It is with pleasure that I welcome Lyndon J. Laster to my office as its LECC Coordinator and as Chief of the Community Relations Unit. Lyndon is a very important member of our team, and he brings a wealth of law enforcement knowledge and training experience to the position. I think that will greatly benefit local, state, and federal law enforcement, and I know it gives my office better vision of your needs.

I hope you will help me, and my **LECC Advisory Board Members** (listed on page 3) by letting us hear from you the type of training you would like to have offered. I think the first six months of FY 2003 have been most successful because all training has been in areas you suggested. I thank all the 150+ participants in our Child Pornography & Child Sexual Exploitation, and the 180+ that attended the Threat Assessment & Safe School Initiative. Our next major training will be a 2 1/2 day workshop on Methamphetamine Investigation. Please register early for this critical training!

We continue to focus on the reduction of violent crime by tight and tough enforcement of federal firearms laws. If you aren't familiar with our **I.C.E.** program please *turn to page 6* and read about a program that will make your jurisdiction's streets safer.

I expect to make my Spring Tour through the District of our annual Intelligence Sharing sessions during the month of May. I will have a meeting in each of the District's 7 divisions. If you would like to host a one-day meeting for your division please call Lyndon as soon as possible.

I look forward to being back in your communities and to hearing your concerns and sharing the latest crime trends. Until then please stay safe....

Alice Martin

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The United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Alabama Welcomes a New LECC Coordinator



Lyndon J. Laster hails from Gary, Indiana. He comes to us from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center For Domestic Preparedness (CDP), located in Anniston, AL. While there he worked as a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Instructor, Training Manager, and Research Assistant; primarily focusing on preparing our nation's first responders to respond to WMD incidents involving chemical and biological hazardous materials. **"Yes, he worked with live chemical agents!"**

Prior to his association with the CDP, **Lyndon** served 20-years in the United States Army, as a Military Policeman/Law Enforcement Specialist. He has held a wide range of law enforcement, training, and management positions. He has been a Senior Administrator for a 250-person military police company, which was responsible for initial-entry training of military police recruits. He was the Law Enforcement Training Division Chief for the Department of Basic Military Police Training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, where he supervised a 28-person staff responsible for all aspects of Advanced Individual Law Enforcement Training of Military Police personnel.

Additionally, while stationed in South Korea, **Lyndon** worked as the 2nd Infantry Division's Law Enforcement Operations Supervisor, where he was directly responsible for all daily law enforcement activities within the division. He worked as an Instructor, Small Group Leader, and Course Manager for the Military Police Noncommissioned Officers Academy and Military Police School. He has participated in numerous military and civilian law enforcement training courses and exercises. He has also taught Internet-based domestic preparedness courses for American Military University.

Lyndon earned his undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice at Jacksonville State University, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude. He earned his graduate degree at Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. He and wife Sherry have one daughter and reside in Jacksonville, Alabama.

"This is a great opportunity for me...it allows me to work with the law enforcement community and continue to assist in the defense of our nation."

WHAT IS THE LECC?

In 1981, the Attorney General's Task Force on Violent Crime specifically recommended that each United States Attorney establish a Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (LECC). The by-partisan Task Force recommendation to establish LECCs came as a direct result of the group's finding that federal, state, and local law enforcement cooperation was crucial, but that cooperation nationwide was uneven, ranging from nonexistent to good.

On July 21, 1981 the Attorney General of the United States issued an order instructing every United States Attorney to establish a Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee in his/her district.

Today, each United States Attorney has a LECC in place, consisting of all local, state federal law enforcement agencies as well as security officers of several private companies. The mission of these committees is to improve cooperation and coordination among law enforcement groups, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

Most LECCs have an Advisory Board to direct their efforts. Members of our Advisory Board are listed on the next page.



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NORTH ALABAMA JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE

*By: Joe McLean, Assistant U.S. Attorney
Anti-Terrorism Task Force Coordinator*

The **North Alabama Joint Terrorism Task Force** (NAJTTF) was officially established on April 15, 2002. It currently consists of full time Agents and Officers from the **Federal Bureau of Investigation, The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Secret Service, Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigations Division, 902d Military Intelligence Group, Alabama Bureau of Investigations, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Hoover Police Department, Bessemer Police Department** and the **University of Alabama at Birmingham Police Department**. With the development of the Huntsville Annex to the NAJTTF, the **Huntsville Police Department** will also have a full time participant on the task force. The Annex is expected to expand to include additional federal, state and local officers.

The NAJTTF is housed in the FBI's space in the 2121 Building in downtown Birmingham, Alabama. The task force members are investigating over 45 cases and operating approximately 20 human sources. They respond immediately and thoroughly to any threats of terrorism violence anywhere in the Northern District of Alabama. They also have begun producing a weekly law enforcement sensitive newsletter that goes out to the agencies that have full or part time members on the task force.

Any law enforcement agency that is interested in providing an Agent or Officer to work full time on the NAJTTF should call Supervisory Special Agent Tim Kinard at (205) 715-0251.

In addition to the NAJTTF we urge you to take part in the Anti-Terrorism Task Force (ATTF) which was described in the Fall 2002 LECC LINK Newsletter. Please complete, detach and return the application below to Joe McLean.

ATTF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To assist law enforcement please consider completing this membership application so we may share this information. Please help us by completing if you have not already replied or are a new member. An email address is needed to receive communications. It is important and beneficial that you take part in this membership.

Agency Name _____ County _____ Date _____

Agency Head _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail _____ Pager _____

Mobile _____ Emergency _____

Person Completing This Form _____

*Return from to: Joe McLean, Anti-Terrorism Task Force Coordinator
U.S. Attorney's Office, 1801 4th Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203*



“Victims’ Rights: Fulfill the Promise” America Commemorates the 23rd Anniversary of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week

Birmingham, Alabama - During the week of April 6th through the 12th, 2003, crime victims, service providers, criminal and juvenile justice and allied professionals, and community volunteers will join together across America to commemorate the 23rd anniversary of **National Crime Victims’ Rights Week**. This year’s theme, **“Victims’ Rights: Fulfill the Promise,”** emphasizes America’s promise to victims to treat them with dignity and compassion; to help identify and meet their most important needs; and to provide them with information about their statutory and constitutional rights, as well as advocacy to help them implement their rights.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the national leadership on victims’ issues provided through the **Office of Victims of Crime (OVC)**. Founded in 1983 by the **U.S. Department of Justice** and placed within the **Office of Justice Programs** to implement the recommendations of President Reagan’s 1982 President’s Task Force on **Victims of Crime**, OVC provides leadership, support and funding to community- and system-based agencies and organizations that provide victim assistance.

Since 1972, the victims’ rights discipline has strived to place crime victims’ concerns and issues on the forefront of America’s public policy agenda. Over 32,000 laws have been passed at the federal, state and local levels that promote victims’ rights and services, including constitutional amendments in 33 states. And today, there are 10,000 community- and justice system-based organizations that provide help and hope to victims of crime.

America’s “promise” to victims cannot be kept without a recognition that when crime affects one person, it affect us *all*.

The domino effect of criminal victimization is tremendous. The physical, emotional, and financial devastation a victim suffers has repercussions that touch us all — in our homes, our neighborhoods, our schools, in our workplaces and beyond.

Our promise to victims — of support and services to help them in the aftermath of crime — requires the commitment and compassion of anyone to whom a victim might turn for help.”

Throughout the Northern District of Alabama, a number of activities have been planned to recognize victims of crime and those who serve them during **National Crime Victims’ Rights Week**.

John W. Gillis, Director of the Office for Victims of Crime within the **U.S. Department of Justice**, encourages all people in America who are concerned with community safety to consider what they can do to **“fulfill the promise”** to victims of crime.

“An act of kindness, no matter how small, can make a world of difference to a victim of crime,” Gillis explains. “By reaching out to a victim in need of support, every person in our great nation can **“fulfill the promise”** of treating victims with respect, identifying and meeting their needs, and helping them seek justice.

For twenty years, the **Office for Victims of Crime** has provided leadership and support to America’s victims’ rights movement. During **National Crime Victims’ Rights Week** and throughout the year, I ask that each of us do what we can to reach out to any victim who needs help,” he concluded.

Members of our community are encouraged to join together during the **2003 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week**, and honor not only victims of crime, but also those who bring honor to victims on a daily basis.

For additional information about the 2003 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, please contact Susan Means, Victim-Witness Coordinator at (205) 244-2001 or Lynnette McGowens, Victim-Witness Advocate at (256) 534-8285 or contact your local Victims Service Officer. You can also visit the Office of Victims of Crimes’ web site at: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/welcome.html.

ASSET FORFEITURE UPDATE

By: James Ingram, Assistant U. S. Attorney



Interested in Training?

Contact the Asset Forfeiture Unit, Assistant United States Attorneys James Ingram or Katherine Corley at (205) 244-2001 if you have any questions or if you are interested in forfeiture-related training for your agency.





ALABAMA I.C.E. (Isolate the Criminal Element)

By: Alison Blackwell, Project Safe Neighborhoods Coordinator

Alabama I.C.E. continues to take significant strides to combat gun violence in the Northern District of Alabama. The Northern District's involvement in partnerships and strategic planning to expand **Alabama I.C.E.** to all divisions in the district continues through training and outreach.

Training is complete with: **Tuscaloosa Police Department, Tuscaloosa Sheriff's Department, Tuscaloosa State Trooper Post, Brookwood Police Department, Mountain Brook Police Department, and Homewood Police Department.** Training is currently scheduled for: **Calhoun County, Madison County and Pelham.** Training consists of educating law enforcement officers on applicable federal firearm statutes and vignettes involving federal firearm violations. Training is usually catered to meet the existing monthly training schedule of various law enforcement officers. Handouts and learning materials are provided.

The **Project Safe Neighborhoods** (PSN) Coordinator made a presentation of **Alabama I.C.E.**, providing awareness of its goals and designs, at the *Governor's Conference on Domestic Violence and the Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence Conference*. Correspondence has been sent to all Municipal, District and Circuit Court judges, along with all District Attorneys, in the Northern District advising them of the federal firearms laws as they relate to persons convicted of domestic violence.

A Re-Entry Program was implemented at **Talladega Federal Prison** in January. This program advises convicted felons, at the stage of "near release" to the community, about the "**Alabama I.C.E.**" message of intolerance to gun violence and encourages the inmates lawful response to the challenges faced by possession of firearms. We are currently exploring opportunities to work with federal, state and juvenile probation officers to expand the reach of this message.

This expansion of PSN includes the creation of a PSN Task Force in Birmingham which coordinates and develops a strategy for combating gun violence in Birmingham. This task force is comprised of the **United States Attorney**; the **Mayor of Birmingham**; the **Police Chief for Birmingham Police Department**; the **District Attorney for Jefferson County**; representatives from the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms**, the **Salvation Army**, the **Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence**, and private industry, **Alabama Power Company**.

The task force's efforts are greatly aided by the assistance of a "research partner" funded by a **Department of Justice** (DOJ) grant. This research partner, a professor with the **University of Alabama in Birmingham Department of Criminal Justice**, will help "identify the cause of gun violence in Birmingham." Specifically, he is in the process of developing a "homicide database" and reviewing every homicide that has occurred in Birmingham over the last three years to determine "links" and predictability of this type crime and all other crimes involving a firearm. This particular focus is being made because of the high homicide rate in Birmingham. From this data, we anticipate the Task Force will develop intervention plans specifically tailored to the trends uncovered in the research.

The Task Force, through PSN, has also received funding for a "media outreach partner". The **Community Foundation of Birmingham** has been chosen to serve as that partner and is developing a comprehensive media blitz to get the message to the public of "**HARD TIME for GUN CRIME!**" There are also funds that have been used to establish a foundation, so this media effort which is funded by DOJ for \$250,000 for the next two years, can become self-sustaining.

*I invite you to call for free specialized federal firearm statute training.
To schedule, contact Alison Blackwell at the United States Attorney's Office, 256-534-8285.*

The U.S. Attorney's Office Welcomes Its Newest Assistant U.S. Attorney

Brad Felton was born in Birmingham, Alabama and raised in Russellville, Alabama. He attended Samford University where he received a Bachelors Degree in History in 1992. He received his J.D. from Cumberland School of Law in May, 1996. Brad worked as an Assistant District Attorney for Jefferson County from October, 1996, until coming to work here at the U.S. Attorney's Office. He started working at this office in January, 2003 and is assigned to the Violent Crimes Section. He and wife Vonda have a son and currently reside in Pelham, Alabama.



Recent Training

March 18, 2003 - THREAT ASSESSMENT AND SAFE SCHOOL INITIATIVE TRAINING CONFERENCE
Sponsored By: The United States Attorney's Office and the United States Secret Service

Members of the **Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center** (NTAC) reviewed and discussed the United States Secret Service Exceptional Case Study Project (ECSP) and Safe School Initiative. The ECSP is the first operational exploration of the thinking and behavior of all 83 persons known to have attacked, or approached to attack, a prominent public official or public figure in the United States since 1949. The fundamental purpose of the ECSP is to gather and analyze information that **Secret Service** and other law enforcement professionals could use to prevent future attacks on public officials and figures. The goal of this conference was to provide information and materials from each Secret Service study in order to help law enforcement officials develop and implement strategies to earlier identify, assess, and manage those that may pose a risk of targeted violence in schools or public figures.

February 26, 2003 - CHILD PORNOGRAPHY & CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OVER THE INTERNET
Sponsored By: The United States Attorney's Office Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee

Approximately 150 state and local law enforcement officers, prosecutors, probation and victim services officials attended this training. Special Agents from the **Federal Bureau of Investigation** and the **U.S. Postal Inspection Service** (USPS) discussed how "on-line" child sexual exploitation cases are developed and investigated by the "Innocent Images" Task Force. They also discussed how evidence can be obtained from forensic examinations of computers. The attendees also received training on recent developments in the law relating to these types of investigations, and an overview of recent cases prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office. The United States Probation Office provided training concerning websites operated by organized pedophile groups on the Internet.

Upcoming Training

May 19 - 21, 2003 - METHAMPHETAMINE INVESTIGATION MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
Location: Huntsville, AL

Co-Hosted By: Regional Organized Crime Information Center, ROCIS; United States Attorney's Office, Northern, Middle and Southern Districts of Alabama; Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs; and the Alabama Narcotic Officers' Association

This training will cover the Methamphetamine Problem; Clandestine Laboratories; Manufacturing Methamphetamine; Procedures of the First Responder; Investigation Techniques; Raid Issues; and Emerging Trends.

For more information regarding this training or for a registration form please contact Lynnette McGowens at (256) 534-8285. You may also check the U.S. Attorney's Office website at: www.usdoj.gov/usao.aln

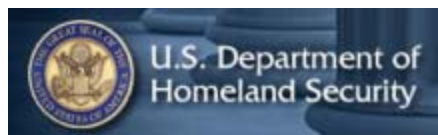
LECC Training - FY 2003

- ☐ June - Cybercrime and the Internet
- ☐ July - open
- ☐ August - Statewide conference

FYI: On May 12 - 16, 2003 The National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) is offering a course entitled "Introduction to Basic Drug Intelligence Analysis." The course will be held in Birmingham, Alabama and is open to Local, State and Federal, Law Enforcement Officers.

For more information call (814) 532-4720 or log on to the website at: NDIC.Training@usdoj.gov.





CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS

Adopted from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Fact Sheet - March 2003

Events over the past few years have shown that terrorists, foreign and domestic, are willing to attack American interests at home and abroad. Terrorists now have access to a broad array of advanced technologies and lethal materials worldwide. International and domestic terrorism can strike any target at any time, and terrorists are no longer limited to conventional weapons. There is concern that chemical and biological agents are weapons of choice. On November 26, 1997, the **Center for Domestic Preparedness** (CDP) was officially established under the **Department of Justice** as a Training Center for Emergency Responders to terrorist acts. Under the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the Center became part of the newly created **Department of Homeland Security**. Since the Center opened and began training operations on June 1, 1998, emergency responders have received invaluable training which will assist them in dealing with a terrorist attack. They gain critical skills and necessary confidence which enables them to effectively respond to a **Weapons of Mass Destruction** incident.

The **Center for Domestic Preparedness, U.S. Department of Homeland Security**, is charged with training emergency responders: law enforcement, firefighters, emergency

medical personnel and others to deal with a terrorist attack involving **Weapons of Mass Destruction** and incidents involving hazardous materials. An awesome task when you realize there are more than **11 million** emergency responders and other personnel in this country that would need training to deal with terrorist incidents. The CDP training includes chemical, ordnance/explosives, biological and radiological (COBRA) weapons that may be employed by terrorists. The Center is the *only* federally chartered WMD training center that provides hands-on training in a toxic agent environment to civilian emergency responders. In fact, the CDP stands as a world leader in providing such training. Since beginning operations, the CDP has trained responders representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories. The Center continues to pursue initiatives which will provide opportunities for even more responders to take advantage of this very important thing.

If you would like to participate in one of the courses offered at the Center for Domestic Preparedness, please contact your state coordinator. If you would like more information about CDP training programs, please contact Rick Dickson at 256-847-2222.

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If you would like a copy or would like to make any suggestions or comments please contact Lynnette McGowens at (256) 534-8285 or via e-mail at Lynnette.McGowens@usdoj.gov

For more information about upcoming training events visit the United States Attorney's website at www.usdoj.gov/usao.aln or contact the LECC Coordinator, Lyndon Laster at (205) 244-2001 or Lyndon.Laster@usdoj.gov.